DEFIANT

7

$2.50

$3.50 CANADA

THE GOOD GUYS™

GREG BONE & MIKE CHEN

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE UNIVERSE. Something happened that shook the foundations of the fragile reality we *think* of as real. **BECAUSE** it happened, here and there dreams came true. For instance, eight kids who dreamed of being like their comic book heroes have become *empowered*. They don't understand how. They simply call it magic. **THEY'RE** trying to be *good guys*. **ANOTHER** child's darker dream was realized, too, and one *Master Ridgely Gatesman* has become powerful and diabolical. He has lured the eight into cruel traps that could only have been conceived by a brilliant yet childlike mind. **IT** seems so *simple*—good versus bad, a children's game. And yet, there is much at stake here. Far more than the young participants can appreciate. **YES,** the fate of the world. **AND** even *more*. **YOU** see, something is wrong with the universe...**AND** the destiny of *all life* is literally in the hands of children.

STORY BY *JIM SHOOTER, JANET JACKSON* AND *ED POLGARDY* * WRITTEN BY *KEN GALE, JANET JACKSON* AND *WINSTON FOWLKES* * DRAWN BY *GREG BOONE* * INKED BY *MIKE CHEN* * PAINTED BY *BEN JUNG* * LETTERED BY *AGNES PINAHA* * EDITED BY *DEBBIE FIX*

IT'S LIKE QUICKSAND! YOU CAN'T SWIM IN IT. YOU JUST SINK!

GOTTA GET THIS OFF, OR... YOU... YOU'LL DROWN!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M OKAY IF I DON'T MOVE.

I'LL BE OKAY! HELP SPELLCASTER AND THE OTHERS!

I'LL TRY!

THIS NET IS A LOT STRONGER THAN IT LOOKS. I CAN'T BREAK IT!

IF I CAN'T BREAK IT, DON'T EVEN BOTHER TRYING, CRANE.

WHITE CRANE. AND I'M AS STRONG AND FAST AND AGILE AS YOU, SKRAG.

HEATER! CAN'T 'CHA GET AWAY FROM THAT HOSER LONG ENOUGH TO BURN THESE NETS OFF US?

OWW!

HOW COULD I DO THAT WITHOUT BURNING YOU, SKRAG?

MAYBE I COULD GET SPELLCASTER OUT OF THAT GAS CHAMBER... UFF!

MAN, THE WATER HITS LIKE A BASEBALL BAT!

I HAVEN'T GOTTEN POUNDED SO BAD SINCE FOURTH GRADE. JUMBO DUTKIS WOULDN'T LET ME UP EITHER.

IF I GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE, I THINK I'LL LOOK HIM UP AND... OWW!

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO.

CAN YOU HEAR ANY MACHINERY? CAN YOU SEE ANY CONTROLS?

NO... NOT EVEN WITH MY EYES. ALL THE MACHINERY SOUNDS LIKE IT'S WAY UNDERGROUND.

I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH...

...AGAIN!

YOU CAN... DO IT... RECON!

I CAN'T. MAYBE FRONT!

I'M COMING, FRONT!

MAYBE I CAN PULL YOU OUT! TRY SQUIRMING CLOSER TO THE EDGE!

NO! NO! IT'S LIKE A HYDRAULIC PRESS OR SOMETHING. I CAN BARELY HOLD IT UP! I'M AFRAID IF I TRY TO SQUIRM OUT, I--

BUT... I GOTTA KEEP CONCENTRATIN' TO KEEP MY ARMOR UP... AND I'M GETTING TIRED!

I'M SORRY I GOT YOU KIDS INTO THIS MESS! I DIDN'T MEAN TO... UNFF!

I COULD TRY TO SWOOP DOWN AND PICK HEATER UP...

...BUT THOSE WATER-CANNON GIZMOS WOULD PROBABLY CLOBBER ME, JUST LIKE THEY CLOBBERED THE CHAUFFEUR.

THERE MUST BE A WAY. WHAT WOULD McGYVER DO?

THE GOOD GUYS™ #7. May 1994. Published by DEFIANT®, a division of Enlightened Entertainment Partners, L.P., 232 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Jim Shooter, President; Winston Fowlkes, Publisher. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 EEP, L.P. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $3.50 in Canada. Except for those persons from whom rights have been requested and received, no similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any person living or dead or any institution is intended, and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental. The trademarks DEFIANT, ENLIGHTENED ENTERTAINMENT, and THE GOOD GUYS and all of the character names and likenesses featured herein are the exclusive property of EEP, L.P. PRINTED IN CANADA.

THIS IS **STUPID.** I CAN'T JUST FLOAT HERE WHILE ZACK MIGHT BE DYING.

RECON! I'M GOING TO LET MYSELF SINK TO THE BOTTOM. I THINK I CAN PUNCH THROUGH THE SIDE OF THIS TANK IF I CAN PLANT MY FEET!

LAURA, **DON'T!** WHAT IF YOU **CAN'T...?!**

OH, MAN...! THERE SHE GOES!

YOU GOTTA BREAK OUT, LAURA, YOU **GOT** TO!

LAURA, I REALLY, UM... CARE ABOUT YOU.

MEANWHILE, IN RIDGELY GATESMAN'S CONTROL CENTER...

CHECK THIS OUT, HODGE. THE TRAPS I DESIGNED ARE LIKE FROM **SCOOBY-DO**. I MEAN I WASN'T EVEN **SERIOUS**... AND THESE FEEBS CAN'T GET LOOSE.

OH, WELL. IF THEY CAN'T SURVIVE ***THOSE*** DORKY TRAPS, THEN THEY AREN'T OF ANY USE TO ME, ANYWAY.

IT'S GETTING BORING.

THAT HAD BETTER BE THE RIGHT KIND OF COOKIES. AND **CHOCOLATE** MILK.

BUT MASTER RIDGELY'S FATHER ***INSISTS*** ON SEEING THE MASTER.

HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS COOKIES AND COW JUICE TIME. I WOULDN'T DISTURB HIM. YOU KNOW HOW HE GETS.

I... I'LL ACCEPT THE RISK. THIS IS IMPORTANT. HE MIGHT BE ANGRIER IF I ***DON'T*** TELL HIM.

WHAT IS IT NOW, LANGSTON?

IT'S YOUR FATHER... SIR. HE INSISTS ON SEEING YOU.

SO?

HE'S **BEGGING** YOU.

BEGGING ME? COOL! OKAY. PUT THE PLEXI-WALL DOWN SO HE CAN'T ATTACK ME. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

WILLIAM GATESMAN. HIS CORPORATION HAS CREATED EQUIPMENT FOR NASA, CUSTOMIZED ROBOTICS FOR INDUSTRY ALL OVER THE WORLD AND INVENTED CONVENIENCES FOR EVERY DAY LIFE. HE'S WORTH BILLIONS.

NOW HIS ONLY CHILD HAS TURNED HIS LIFE INTO A STEPHEN KING NOVEL.

WELL?

I WANT TO SEE YOUR MOTHER.

I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOU WANTED. I WANT TO KNOW THAT SHE'S ALL RIGHT.

YEAH?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

YOU TAUGHT ME THIS! "ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE," ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

LET MOM GO. YOU'LL STILL HAVE ME. STOP HURTING YOUR MOTHER.

YOU'RE HURTING HER! YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED TO OBEY ME WITHOUT QUESTION. I WOULD NEVER HURT MOM. YOU'RE THE ONE.

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAVE DONE THIS TO YOU? WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LITTLE BOY?

I'VE "REALIZED MY POTENTIAL." YOU ALWAYS SAID I HAD GREAT POTENTIAL.

PLEASE LET ME SEE HER, RIDGELY.

DON'T CALL ME THAT, ANYMORE. CALL ME MASTER.

OKAY, I'LL LET YOU WATCH ON THE MONITOR.

PLEASE... MASTER.

IN ANOTHER ROOM.

HI, MOM. IT'S ME.

RIDGELY?

I'M COMING IN, SO DON'T MOVE.

MOVE? NO. I WON'T.

NOW, I'VE GOT THE REMOTE CONTROL FOR THAT TRAPDOOR, SO DON'T **TRY** ANYTHING!

RIDGELY, SWEETHEART, WHAT'S GOING ON?! I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FATHER AND ME. YOU COULDN'T! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. WHY ARE YOU DOING THESE TERRIBLE THINGS? WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SWEET BABY?

I'M NOT YOUR BABY! I'M **MASTER** RIDGELY NOW!

I'M GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD.

AND THEN I'M GOING TO **RUN IT.**

AND FATHER WILL HELP ME, OR...

NO!

STOP IT!

RIDGELY!

MASTER! THE AQUISITION TEAM JUST GOT BACK. HE'S HERE.

OH, BOY!

SEE YOU LATER, MOM.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO SCARED OF SPIDERS ANYWAY.

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE DOME...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD THIS BACK, RECON!

PAUL... FRONT! COULD YOU BREAK THE SPIKES OFF?

BREAK 'EM?

YEAH, JUST AROUND YOU, SO I CAN PULL YOU OUT.

I GET IT. YEAH!

ALL RIGHT!

NOW, CONCENTRATE AS HARD AS YOU CAN ON YOUR FORCE FIELD!

I'M TURNING YOU INTO A BATTERING RAM!

IT WORKED! WE DID IT!

YEAHHH! I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL A THING.

LAURA! ARE YOU OKAY? LAURA?!

HUH... UH! I'M... I'M... OKAY.

GOOD, CAUSE WE GOT TO GET THE OTHERS, OUT, QUICK!

HUH... HURRY!

YOU OKAY, HEATER?

I'LL LEAVE SOME FOR YOU, IF YOU WANT.

YEAH, I GUESS SO. I WISH I COULD SMASH THOSE STUPID THINGS!

NOT PARTICULARLY.

OKAYYY!

FLEX! GET ZACK NEXT! GET HIM OUT!

I THINK I CAN SEE HIM BREATHING!

YUCK! THAT SMELLS! POOR ZACK.

POOR US! THIS STUFF SHRINKS AS IT DRIES.

WE COULDA' LOST SOME RIBS!

GEEZ, IT'S STRONG, TOO. BUT YOU'RE OKAY?

IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I BREATHE. OWW!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THESE THINGS COULD HOLD ME WHEN I TURN INVISIBLE OR UNSOLID OR WHATEVER.

I'VE **GOT** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THIS STUFF WORKS.

THERE'S CAMERAS IN HERE. HE MUST KNOW WE TRASHED HIS TRAPS.

WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME HERE. WE BETTER GET GOING.

I'M SO SORRY I GOT YOU GUYS INTO THIS. HOW DOES RIDGELY **DO** ALL THIS, HE'S JUST A KID.

IF ANYBODY'S HURT, I COULD MAKE A MAGIC HEALING POTION.

SO ARE WE.

IN THE FORMER OFFICE OF WILLIAM GATESMAN.

THAT WAS FUN GETTING HERE. THE LAST TIME I WAS IN A HELICOPTER I WAS IN NO POSITION TO APPRECIATE IT.

THE MASTER IS ON HIS WAY.

HELLO, CHARLES. WELCOME TO MY ISLAND.

I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME RIGHT AWAY. WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.

PLEASED TO MEETCHA', KID.

SO, WHERE'S THE MASTER? I THOUGHT HE WAS COMING.

YOU'RE TALKIN' TO 'IM, CHUCK.

YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I THOUGHT I WAS HERE TO SEE YOUR DAD. THEY SAID IT WAS ABOUT A THREAT TO THE WORLD.

HAVE A SEAT CHARLES, AND I'LL EXPLAIN.

I CALLED YOU HERE. YOU SEE, I HAVE THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT MIND. I'VE TAKEN OVER MY FATHER'S EXTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS **AND** I HAVE SOME RATHER IMPRESSIVE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

I'M GOING TO ENGINEER THE LARGEST BUSINESS TAKEOVER THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN. THROUGH MY HOLDING COMPANY I WILL ACQUIRE CONTROLLING INTERESTS IN THE MAJOR JAPANESE BANKS AND GLOBAL TRADING ENTERPRISES WHICH WILL GIVE ME **EFFECTIVE CONTROL** OF ALL JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND THAT COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

FROM THAT SPRINGBOARD IT WILL BE A SHORT LEAP TO MONOPOLIZE THE WORLD'S COMMODITIES AND **THUS** CONTROL GLOBAL MANUFACTURING. THE WORLD'S POLITICIANS WILL THEN HAVE **NO CHOICE** BUT TO MY BIDDING.

RAOUL, HAND ME YOUR GUN.

MY PEOPLE FOLLOW MY ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION.

INCLUDING MY FATHER.

I AM THE MASTER, HERE. I COULD BLOW RAOUL'S HEAD **RIGHT OFF.**

NO ONE COULD SAY A WORD TO ME. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, RAOUL?

I'D HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT.

YOU... NEED ME. AND I NEED YOU. I **HAVE** DISCOVERED A THREAT TO THE WORLD. MAYBE **YOU** KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

MAYBE. DOESN'T SEEM LIKE **YOU'D** MUCH CARE.

OH, I **CARE**. ANY THREAT TO THE WORLD IS A THREAT TO MY FUTURE EMPIRE. AND IN THE CONFLICT TO COME LONERS WILL BE LOSERS.

I'VE BEEN TAPPING SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND COMPUTER BILLBOARDS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THINGS ARE WEIRD ALL OVER.

SOME SORT OF EVENT HAS AFFECTED THE QUANTUM FIELD AND CAUSED A RIFT IN THE FABRIC OF REALITY. YOU AND I ARE **BOTH** PRODUCTS OF THAT DISTURBANCE.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

HERE AND THERE, AROUND THE WORLD, FERVENT WISHES ARE COMING TRUE. **YOU** WISHED A WISH, DIDN'T YOU? PROBABLY TO GROW MUSCLES.

WHAT EVER I DID, IT SURE WORKED.

AND I WISHED ONE, TOO.

I CAN BE THE BRAINS BEHIND YOUR MUSCLES. C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU.

WHERE'D ALL THIS COME FROM?

THIS IS MY SURVEILLANCE INSTALLATION. SOME OF IT I BUILT, BUT NOW THAT THE COLD WAR IS OVER, YOU CAN GET **ALL KINDS** OF STUFF ON THE BLACK MARKET.

CASH POOR COUNTRIES NEED **FOOD** MORE THAN THEY NEED TECHNOLOGY. I EVEN GOT A RUSSIAN SUBMARINE.

THIS IS MY NEW IMAGE ACTUALIZATION SYSTEM.

IT CAN PROJECT YOUR THOUGHTS AND MENTAL IMAGES ONTO THE SCREEN.

ALL YOU DO IS CONCENTRATE...

I HAPPENED TO BE PRESENT AT THE EPICENTER OF AN EVENT THAT ALTERED THE QUANTUM FIELD IN AN AREA OF LOS ANGELES.

I SUSPECT THAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT SIMILAR EVENTS OR THEIR EQUIVILANT, BECAUSE THERE SEEM TO BE A GROWING NUMBER OF "UNUSUAL" PEOPLE AROUND. LIKE YOU.

INTERESTING.

I KNOW THAT LAST ONE. CALLED HIMSELF THE DANCER. HE SAIDWAS A PRINCE OF DREAMS. I WAS IN CEDARS - SINAI MEDICAL CENTER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HE SAID DREAMS WERE COMING TRUE, TOO. HE'S THE ONLY THREAT TO THE WORLD THAT I KNOW OF.

BUT I'LL STOP HIM.

THAT MAKES SOME SENSE.

HERE, YOUR TURN.

WHEN I WAS 12 I WENT TO VIETNAM TO LOOK FOR MY BROTHER, PETE. I FOUND HIM, BUT WE WERE ATTACKED AND I LOST MY LEGS. I WAS IN A COMA, TOO -- FOR 18 YEARS.

THINGS HAVE BEEN STRANGE SINCE THEN.

THOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?

I'M NOT SURE. BUT I *THINK* YOU MAY NEED TO DECIDE IF YOU ARE WITH ME OR AGAINST ME.

YAY! WE'RE OUT! NOTHING CAN STOP US!

I WOULDN'T CELEBRATE JUST YET.

THE VILLA IS THIS WAY.

HEATER, YOU SAID THAT WATER JET REALLY HURT, SO I MADE YOU A HEALING POTION.

TAKE IT, IT'LL HEAL YOU.

WHAT?

BUT, SPELLCASTER, WHAT'S IN IT?

I MADE IT WITH MAGIC. IT WAS REALLY HARD.

HERE, HEATER, IT REALLY WORKS!

YEAH? LIKE YOUR MAGIC DOORWAYS? NO WAY!

HEY! I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP.

NOW IT'S ALL BUSTED.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, LITTLE BROTHER. LET'S GO GET THE BAD GUYS.

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED! AND LOOK AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE! THE PRICE OF MATSUSHITA IS FALLING!

THE PERIMETER ALARM! OH NO, NOT NOW!

WHO IS IT?

A COMMANDO TEAM! THEY'RE DANGEROUS! THEY'VE GOT SPECIAL ABILITIES, TOO.

THEY'LL KILL MY MEN! CHARLES, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME. DON'T LET MY INNOCENT EMPLOYEES BE SLAUGHTERED!

WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYBODY GET KILLED, BUT THIS DOESN'T MEAN I'M ON YOUR SIDE, EITHER.

DOLORES, IF IT HITS ONE-TEN, BUY EVERY SHARE THAT'S OFFERED. GO THROUGH THE HOLDING COMPANIES. I'VE GOT TO ARRANGE TO FREE SOME ASSETS FOR THIS TRANSACTION.

DAD. I HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO.

I'LL NEED YOU TO SIGN THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY.

RIDGELY, FOR GOD'S SAKE, YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.

I'M NOT FOOLING AROUND, DAD. SIGN IT!

OH, GOD, RIDGELY! NO!

SHE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!

THE COMPLEX HAS BEEN BREACHED! OH, NO! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!

STOP THEM! STOP THE SPIDERS!

OUTSIDE...

HE COMES OUT OF NOWHERE AND POP! GOES THE WEASEL.

RUSH THE LITTLE ONE! HE'S CUT OFF FROM THE OTHERS!

YEAH, RUSH ME!

WHAT'S THAT?

HELLLLLP!

A MAGIC DOOR. HAVE A NICE TRIP!

OHHHHHHHH!

TAKE 'EM, YOU IDIOTS. CAN'T YOU TAKE A BUNCH OF KIDS?

NO, AND NEITHER CAN YOU!

HOLD IT, RIGHT THERE!

GUYS...

THAT'S ENOUGH!

COOL!

COOL? HE'S THE BACK-UP THAT CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS ALWAYS HAVE.

THEN WHEN WE BEAT *HIM*, THERE'S NO ONE BETWEEN US AND THE "MASTER!"

... I THINK WE BETTER STOP TALKING.

AND **DO** SOMETHING!

YEAH?

IS **THIS** "SOMETHING" ENOUGH FOR YOU?

YOU CREEP! YOU COULD KILL HIM!

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S TRYING TO KILL **ANYONE!**

TURN INVISIBLE AND...

GOT...

... 'CHA-- ULP!

HEY! WHAT'S *WITH* YOU GUYS? YOU'RE JUST KIDS.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S A KID!

FRONT, YOU'RE BLOCKING MY SHOT! SOMEONE'S ALWAYS BLOCKING MY SHOTS.

SKRAG! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH *THAT*?!

I COULD BLOW HIM AWAY-- WITH THIS.

GOOD GUYS DON'T *USE* GUNS.

THE PUNISHER DOES. AND BISHOP AND CABLE. THEY'RE COOL.

THAT'S NOT COOL. YOU COULD KILL SOMEONE.

YOW!

NOW I GOT A SHOT!

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST **STOP** THIS?

BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL US, AREN'T YOU?

I'M NOT TRYING TO KILL ANYONE. I'M TRYING TO **STOP** SOMEBODY FROM GETTING KILLED.

THEN HOW COME YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE MASTER? HE'S EVIL!

HE PROBABLY JUST TRICKED YOU INTO IT, DIDN'T HE?

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO STOP THEM! YOU LET THEM INTO THE COMPLEX!

YOU **SAID** THEY WERE A COMMANDO TEAM. DANGEROUS KILLERS.

LOOK. I'VE DECIDED THAT I'VE GOT MY BUSINESS AND YOU'VE GOT YOURS. I DON'T MUCH LIKE WHAT YOU'RE DOING BUT I'LL DO YOU A FAVOR AND LEAVE YOU ALONE.

OKAY, FINE! THEN I'LL DO YOU ONE. TAKE THESE AND USE THEM TO FIND THE DANCER GUY.

NOW, GET OUT OF HERE.

WHEN THIS IS OVER I'LL BE BACK TO FINISH THIS.

SEE YOU THEN.

ALL RIGHT! I GOT WHAT I NEED, NOW I'VE GOT TO GET TO NEW YORK AND START TRACKING THE DANCER.

COOL!

NO. I'LL HAVE TO GO SOME OTHER WAY.

I SAW A HELICOPTER OUTSIDE. CAN YOU FLY IT?

I GOT A WAY. I CAN MAKE A MAGIC DOOR!

IT'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT TO NEW YORK.

THANKS! BYE!

OH, YEAH! I ALMOST FORGOT. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT SOME MONSTERS!

RIDGELY'S GONE! HE'S NOT HERE ANYWHERE!

WELL, HE WON'T BE USING THIS STUFF AGAIN.

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIS PARENTS. GEOFFREY SAID HE WAS HOLDING THEM PRISONER SOMEWHERE IN THE VILLA.

NOBODY WENT TO LOOK FOR THEM.

GWEN, PLEASE HOLD ON, HONEY. OH, GOD, GWEN.

WHO ARE YOU?!

I'M HERE TO HELP.

MY WIFE! HELP MY WIFE!

HURRY!

I GOT HER, BUT SHE'S UNCONCIOUS!

SHE'S IN ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK. SHE'S ALLERGIC TO SPIDER VENOM. THERE'S NO WAY TO GET HER TO A HOSPITAL IN TIME.

I CAN HELP.

HERE, MA'AM, DRINK THIS.

OH!

GWEN?!

IT WORKED!

GWEN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW...? WHO ARE YOU KIDS? IT DOESN'T MATTER, YOU SAVED OUR LIVES. WHATEVER I CAN DO TO REPAY YOU, I WILL.

YOU DID IT, BRO!

ZACK?

ALL I WANT IS SOME SLEEP. I'M TIRED, MATT, AND KIND OF DIZZY. I GUESS MAKING TWO IN ONE DAY IS TOO MUCH.

RUMBLE

WELL, THERE GOES MY WHOLE INSTALLATION. BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT IF I GET THOSE DWEEBS.

EVERYTHING'S BLOWING UP!
HE EVEN BLEW UP ALL THE BOATS!
MR. GATESMAN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
GEOFFRY!
WE'D BETTER BUILD A RAFT IF WE'RE GONNA GET OFF THIS ISLAND.
WHICH WAY IS IT TO CALIFORNIA?
WELL WE'RE OFF THE COAST OF BAJA SO CALIFORNIA WOULD BE NORTH. WE CAN FOLLOW THE COASTLINE.
SAILING, SAILING, OVER THE BOUNDING WAVES...
GIVE IT A REST, HEATER!
HEY, WE SHOULD HAVE A FLAG!
THERE.
COOL!
YO HO HO AND A BOTTLE OF...
CAN IT!
HEY, GUYS? DOESN'T THE SUN SET IN THE WEST?

letters TO THE EDITOR

DEFIANT welcomes your comments.

Please address all mail to:
Letters to the Editor
DEFIANT
232 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

JIM SHOOTER
Editor in Chief

WINSTON FOWLKES
Publisher

JANET JACKSON
Creative Director

ED POLGARDY
Senior Editor

JOE JAMES
Editor

RON ZALME
Production Director

PETER LUKIC
Design Director

DEBBIE FIX
General Manager

CLARK SMITH
Sales & Marketing Manager

MICHAEL HURLEY
Advertising Sales

DEFIANT

Dear Mr. Shooter:
GOOD GUYS #5 was very nice indeed. The art was fabulous—Boone and Chen are nearly as good as Grey—but the thing I liked best was that the story and dialogue rang true. Lots of comics would have made *Mr. Neale's* attempt at Professor X-hood last for several issues before anyone developed the nerve to tell him to push off. The way that scene was handled showed a sense of the way people really act—particularly *Flex's* outburst to her father after the bad scene was over. I also loved the way *Truc* worked up to violence by way of braggadocio. That's the way violence usually happens in the real world. Again, this shows a good eye for reality. And *Mr. Neale's* reaction to seeing *Flex* hurt—"Oh, sweetheart, oh, baby"—was precisely what a father would say and how he'd say it. This shows a perfect ear for dialogue.

Finally, this issue bucked a growing trend in DEFIANT comics by showing the proper place of a positive mental attitude. Good thoughts won't make you stronger, as they did *Charlemagne;* losing your fear won't make you invincible, as they did *Glare.* This issue showed that other things besides a positive mental attitude are important to winning. In most DEFIANT comics, I believe that *Flex* would have won the second round with *Truc* by being empowered by a speech from *White Crane* about how men shouldn't be able to intimidate women, then tearing back into battle and winning even though she was doing nothing different, just because she was all psyched out. This sends all the wrong messages. Instead, *Flex* was empowered by *White Crane's* speech, but she also took concrete steps to improve herself: She learned to fight. Her confidence would not have carried her through the fight by itself; her action in acquiring skill was also necessary. This is a message I wish more DEFIANT comics would send: Victory doesn't go to the person who wants it most, it goes to the one who works hardest and behaves most intelligently. It's strange how many comic writers don't get this; I'm glad these writers do (welcome back to scripting, Mr. Shooter!).

The *GOOD GUYS* comic is my favorite in DEFIANT, and my favorite group book on the market anywhere. Keep up the good work, and for God's sake, please don't make "major changes."

Sincerely,
(and dreading your obligatory crossover)
Daniel H. Bigelow
Cathlamet, WA

Dear Good
Guys of DEFIANT,
My never-ending search for good quality comic books led me to this book. *THE GOOD GUYS* is now among my favorite monthly reads. These kids are doing, in my opinion, exactly what I think youngsters

would do upon gaining these gifts. They aren't very good, but their hearts are in the right place. It will be interesting to see how long it takes them to effectively learn how to use these powers. *THE GOOD GUYS* #5 was one good story. It's nice to see stories that don't just deal with good guy vs. bad guy. More often than not, we forget what makes a hero a hero. Today *Laura* found out what that was. Her ordeal at the hands of *Truc* was something very real. Many women are victims of such attacks; however, most of them are not as lucky as Laura. I am truly impressed with how you handled her struggle for her sanity. If the stories are all of this caliber, then I'll gladly be here for the long haul.

I have to agree with *Matthew: Dan Neale* had no business trying to take charge without first consulting the team. I was initially intrigued by the thought of *Dan* trying to become a Professor X type, but after reading this issue, I don't think he belongs. Occasionally, the team may want to turn to Dan for guidance, but it *is* their team and should remain so. Another thing I like about this book is the time spent living "normal" lives. Showing the kids in junior high, the bookstore, and karate school makes these characters that much more real. The way these kids are acting, it's as if they are siblings. I'm looking forward to seeing where this aspect goes.

For me, gaining superpowers like these kids would be a dream come true, and people think this is odd coming from an adult. I just wanted to thank you for bringing us what could be. The stories are great and the art is excellent. I'm looking forward to seeing just how these kids develop. Are their personalities based on the people who you've modeled them after?

Sincerely,
Steven Leitman
Cincinnati, OH

Steven, regarding the Good Guys' personalities matching up with the contest winners', we got lucky: We had vague ideas of what kind of personalities we wanted The Good Guys *to have, and the winners turned out to have many of the personality elements we were looking for!*

Dear DEFIANT,
I enjoy all of your titles, but that's not the reason why I'm writing. I'm writing because I think I've figured out that Grey of *THE GOOD GUYS* is really Rob Liefeld! What led me to this conclusion?

1) Rob was at the Mile High store on the same day as the *Good Guys*. Why? I thought it was a DEFIANT event? Unless he was there to sign *GG* #1!

2) Grey did only one issue of *THE GOOD GUYS*.

3) We know that it's not a new artist because when you are starting out, you want to use your real name so that everyone knows you. You don't want to use a made-up one.

4) Bart Sears did the same thing by using the name "Whittman" when he was doing the covers for *Wizard*.

5) In an interview, Rob stated that he would be taking a break from comics and will not appear in a signing for a year. Then why did he come to the Mile High store?

6) The page layouts and artwork look a lot like Rob's style.

7) The signature on the cover of *THE GOOD GUYS* looks like Rob's handwriting.

8) In an interview, Rob said "I'll do some stuff for DEFIANT and (Shooter will) do some stuff for *YOUNGBLOOD*." We heard that Shooter will write *YOUNGBLOOD*, but no one said anything about what Liefeld will do.

Thanks for your time. Please tell me if I'm right.

Your devoted fan,
Arthur Mazur
Philadelphia, PA

Grey—who drew GG *#1 and #2—is real, all right, and we have the cancelled paychecks to prove it! There was a photo of Grey in Jan Childress's* GOOD GUYS *event report in* GG *#3. Check it out.*